

THE GREY CITY

A
BOOK OF
DRAWINGS

DA
890
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1914

BY

JESSIE M
KING

OF THE NORTH
EDINBURGH

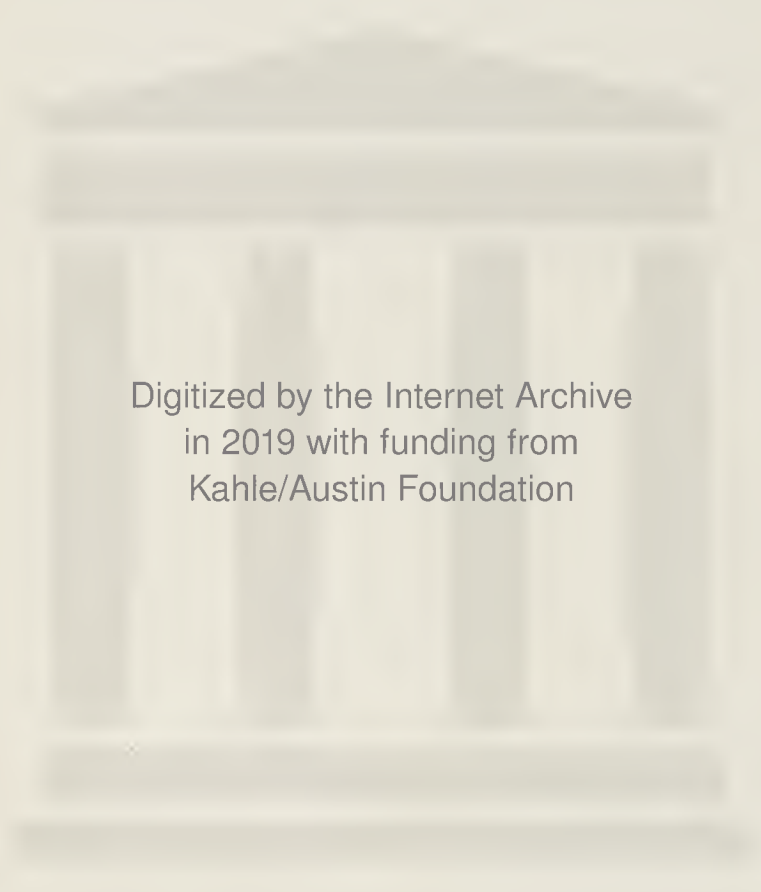


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JESSIE
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T. H. FOVLIS & CO. EDINBURGH & LONDON

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July 1914.

Printed by McLagan & Cumming, Edinburgh.

THE CONTENTS OF THE BOOK.

THE TITLE-PAGE.	1
HADDINGTON'S ENTRY.	2
THE ASSEMBLY-ROOMS.	3
THE ORATORY.	4
ADVOCATES' CLOSE.	5
THE ANCIENT PARLIAMENT-HOUSE.	6
THE QUEEN'S POST AT THE CASTLE.	7
MAHOGANY-LAND.	8
LADY-STAIR'S CLOSE.	9
THE NETHER-BOW-PORT.	10
SMOLLETT'S HOUSE.	11
BAKEHOUSE-CLOSE.	12
THE FOUNTAIN.	13
QUEEN-MARY'S BATH.	14
BALLANTYNE'S CLOSE.	15
THE OLD-TIMBER-FRONTED HOUSE.	16
WATERS' CLOSE.	17
THE WHITE-HORSE-INN.	18
LAMBS-CLOSE.	19
THE CUNZIE-HOUSE.	20
STAMP-OFFICE-CLOSE.	21
THE COLLEGE-WYND.	22
THE OLD-HOUSES IN THE WEST-PORT.	23
PEPPER-MILL-HOUSE.	24
THE WEIGH-HOUSE.	25

END

1.

IN THIS ALLEY WAS THE ENTRANCE TO THE TOWN
HOUSE OF THE EARLS OF HADDINGTON, ABUTTING
ON THE SOUTH END OF THE CANONGATE. ACCESS TO
THE ENTRY WAS OBTAINED THROUGH A COURTYARD
AT THE END OF REID'S CLOSE, CANONGATE.



W. H. H. M. KING

HADDINGTON'S ENTRY

12

II.

THE FIRST PUBLIC ASSEMBLY WAS HELD IN EDINBURGH IN THE YEAR 1710, AND SEEMS TO HAVE MET WITH A SOMEWHAT MIXED RECEPTION, AS ON ONE OCCASION THE OLD ASSEMBLY ROOMS WERE ATTACKED AND THE DOOR BURNED WITH RED HOT SPITS. THE DANCING HOWEVER, WAS CONDUCTED WITH SEVEREST DECORUM, UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A LADY DIRECTRESS. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WERE SEPARATED, AND MET ONLY TO WALK A FORMAL MINUET OR COUNTRY DANCE. LATER THE EDINBURGH ASSEMBLIES WERE AMONG THE CHIEF SOCIAL FUNCTIONS OF THE DAY, AND BECAME FAMOUS ON ACCOUNT OF THE NUMEROUS BEAUTIES WHO ATTENDED THEM.



THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS

III.

THIS BUILDING, DESTROYED IN 1845, STOOD ON THE EAST SIDE OF BLYTH'S CLOSE ON THE CASTLE HILL UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE CASTLE GUNS. TO THE PALACE OPPOSITE CAME MARY OF GUISE WITH HER INFANT DAUGHTER, AFTER THE ENGLISH INVASION OF 1544, AND QUEEN MARY IN LATER YEARS, AFTER THE MURDER OF RIZZIO, AGAIN RESIDED THERE. THE INTERNAL DECORATIONS OF THE ORATORY, ESPECIALLY THE CARVING IN OAK, WERE EXCEPTIONALLY FINE, AND PROBABLY THE FINEST TO BE FOUND IN OLD EDINBURGH.



IV.

THIS DARK AND STEEP ALLEY TOOK ITS NAME FROM SIR JAMES STEWART OF GOODTREES, LORD ADVOCATE OF SCOTLAND, 1692-1713, WHOSE MANSION STOOD AT THE FOOT OF THE CLOSE. IT WAS A FASHIONABLE QUARTER IN THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY, AND HERE RESIDED ANDREW CROSBIE, THE FAMOUS LAWYER, THE ORIGINAL OF SCOTT'S "ANDREW PLEYDELL," LORD WESTHALL, JOHN SCOUGALL, THE PAINTER OF GEORGE HERIOT, AND MANY WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE OF THE TIME.



ADVOCATES' - CLOSE -

V.

THIS OLD HOUSE PROBABLY DERIVES ITS NAME FROM ITS SITUATION IN PARLIAMENT SQUARE, LEITH, CLOSE TO THE ANCIENT COUNCIL HOUSE, WHICH ONE WRITER THINKS WAS THE RESIDENCE OF THE REGENT LENNOX, THIS HOUSE BEING THE SUPPOSED MEETING PLACE OF HIS COUNCILS.



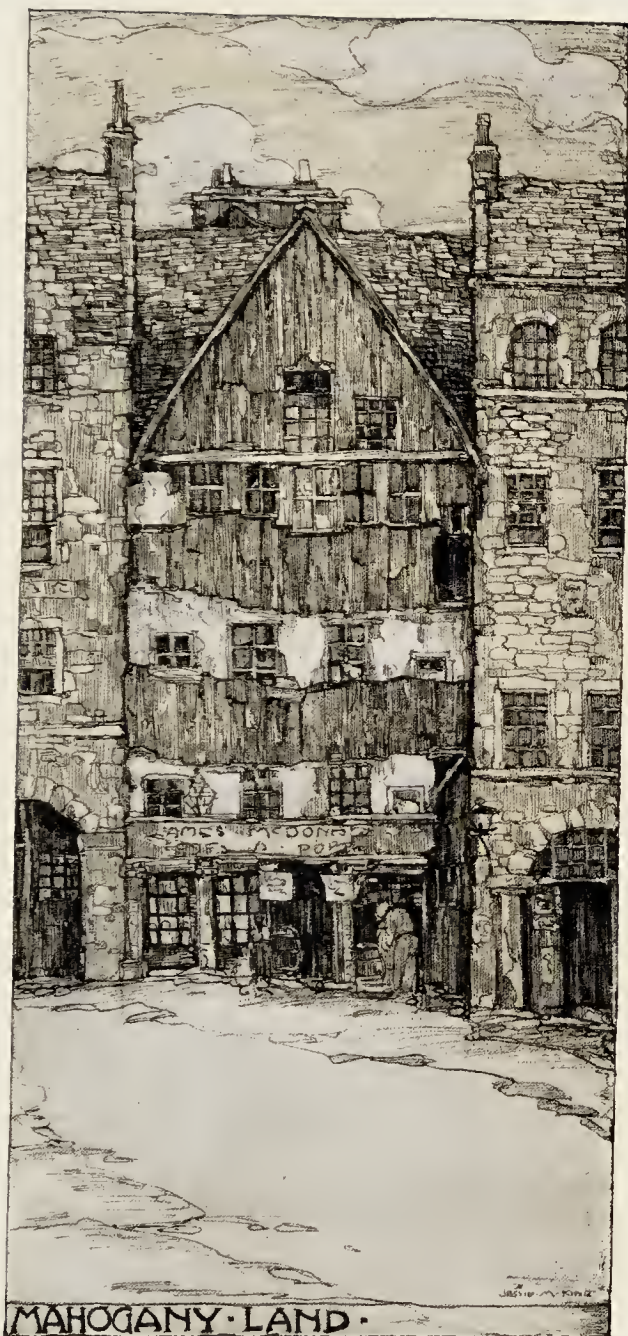
VI.

A TURRET AT AN ANGLE OF THE CASTLE WALL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE ROCK, IS KNOWN AS THE QUEEN'S POST. IT IS BUILT ON THE SITE OF ST MARGARET'S TOWER.



VII.

THIS WAS ONE OF THE OLDEST HOUSES IN THE HISTORIC WEST BOW. ITS DATE IS UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, AND NOTHING IS KNOWN OF ITS OWNERS. IT BORE THE IRON CROSS OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR. OVER THE LINTEL OF THE DOORWAY WAS THE MOTTO "HE-YT-THOLIS-OVERCUMMIS" (HE THAT BEARS, OVERCOMES), AND ITS CEILINGS WERE VERY FINELY DECORATED IN 16TH CENTURY STYLE. ANOTHER MANSION BEARING THE SAME NAME STOOD IN EASTER PORTSBURGH, OR POTTERROW.



VIII.

ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE LAWNMARKET IS LADY STAIR'S CLOSE, WHERE LIVED THE LEADER OF EDINBURGH SOCIETY IN THE EARLY PART OF THE 18TH CENTURY, ELIZABETH, DOWAGER COUNTESS OF STAIR. THIS LADY'S MARRIED LIFE WAS VERY ADVENTUROUS, AND FORMED THE FOUNDATION FOR SCOTT'S TALE, "MY AUNT MARGARET'S MIRROR." HER HOUSE HAS NOW PASSED INTO THE POSSESSION OF LORD ROSEBERY



LADY STAIR'S CLOSE .

IX.

“THE NETHERBOW PORT MIGHT BE CALLED THE TEMPLE BAR OF EDINBURGH, AS, INTERSECTING THE HIGH STREET AT ITS TERMINATION, IT DIVIDED EDINBURGH, PROPERLY SO CALLED, FROM THE SUBURB NAMED THE CANONGATE, AS TEMPLE BAR SEPARATES LONDON FROM WESTMINSTER.”—*Heart of Midlothian*
ITS DOOM WAS PRONOUNCED BY QUEEN CAROLINE AFTER THE PORTEOUS RIOT OF 1736, BUT IT LIVED TO BE TAKEN AGAIN BY PRINCE CHARLIE’S ARMY IN 1745, AND WAS FINALLY DEMOLISHED NINETEEN YEARS LATER.



THE BETHER-BOW-PORT.

“DURING HIS LAST VISIT TO EDINBURGH IN 1766—THE VISIT WHICH OCCASIONED “HUMPHREY CLINKER”—SMOLLETT LIVED IN HIS SISTER’S HOUSE AT THE HEAD OF ST. JOHN STREET FIRST DOOR UP. A PERSON WHO RECOLLECTS SEEING HIM THERE DESCRIBES HIM AS DRESSED IN BLACK CLOTHES, TALL, AND EXTREMELY HANDSOME. HE WAS VERY PEEVISH ON ACCOUNT OF THE ILL HEALTH TO WHICH HE HAD SO LONG BEEN A MARTYR.”

Traditions of Edinburgh.



SMOLLETT'S HOUSE.

XI.

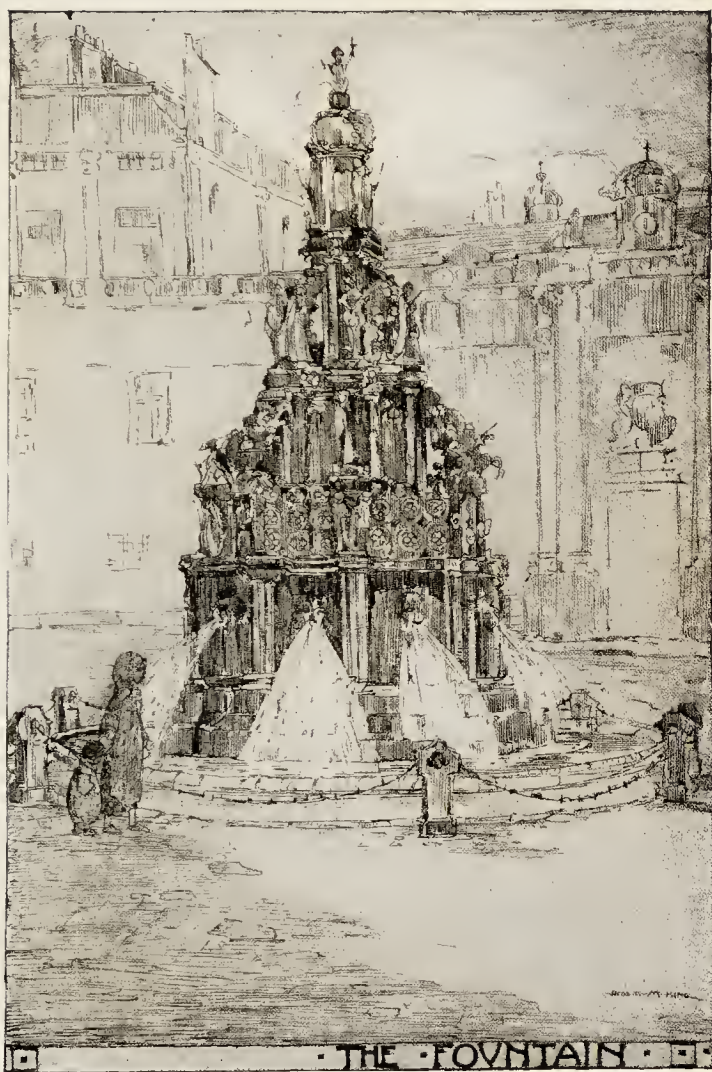
NO. 146 CANONGATE. THE DRAWING REPRESENTS THE BACK OF THE PICTURESQUE WOODEN GABLED HOUSE OF THE MARQUIS OF HUNTLY. IN THIS CLOSE ALSO IS THE MANSION OF ACHESON OF GLENCAIRNEY ANCESTOR OF THE EARLS OF GOSFORD.



BAKEHOUSE CLOSE

XII.

THIS FOUNTAIN, WHICH STANDS IN THE CENTRE OF
PALACE YARD, HOLYROOD, WAS ERECTED BY THE
LATE PRINCE CONSORT. IT IS A FACSIMILE OF THE
OLD RUINED FOUNTAIN IN THE QUADRANGLE OF
LINLITHGOW PALACE.



XIII.

IN THIS SMALL LODGE, TRADITION HAS IT THAT QUEEN MARY BATHED HERSELF IN WHITE WINE. IT WAS FORMERLY ENCLOSED WITHIN THE PALACE GROUNDS, AND IS SUPPOSED TO BE CONNECTED WITH THE ESCAPE OF THE MURDERERS OF RIZZIO. A SMALL INLAID DAGGER WAS FOUND HIDDEN IN THE ROOF WHEN THE BUILDING WAS UNDERGOING REPAIR DURING LAST CENTURY.



XIV.

A PICTURESQUE, BUT DILAPIDATED CLOSE, ENTERING FROM THE WEST PORT AND ABUTTING ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE GRASSMARKET. IT WAS REMOVED IN THE LATTER HALF OF LAST CENTURY, ITS SITE BEING OCCUPIED BY THE BUILDING, NOW BEARING THE CITY OF EDINBURGH AND CITY OF GLASGOW ARMS, WHICH WAS THE EDINBURGH OFFICE OF THE CITY OF GLASGOW BANK.



BALLANTYNE'S - CLOSE -

XV.

THIS FINE OLD HOUSE, STANDING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE LAWNMARKET, WAS BUILT ABOUT THE YEAR 1540, AND STOOD UNCHANGED UNTIL TAKEN DOWN IN 1878. "ITS NORTH FRONT IS NOT DEFICIENT IN ELEGANCE, THERE BEING DORIC PILASTERS OF TIMBER INTERSPERSED WITH THE WINDOWS OF ONE FLOOR, AND SOME DECORATIONS ON THE GABLE PRESENTED TO THE STREET."



THE · OLD · TIMBER - FRONTED · HOUSE ·

XVI.

A VERY OLD CLOSE, LYING TO THE NORTH OF QUEEN STREET, LEITH. THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE ANCIENT TENEMENT IN THE DRAWING IS A CURIOUS EXAMPLE OF THE TASTE OF THE OWNER OR THE DESIGNER, EVERY POSSIBLE DEVIATION FROM THE VERTICAL OR HORIZONTAL BEING INTRODUCED INTO THE GABLE TO GIVE IT SOME DISTINCTION ABOVE ITS VERY COMMONPLACE NEIGHBOURS.



XVII.

“THE OLDEST HOUSE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN USED IN THE CHARACTER OF AN INN IS ONE SITUATED IN THE WHITEHORSE CLOSE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CANONGATE—A GOODLY STRUCTURE OF ANTIQUE FASHION HAVING TWO OUTSIDE STAIRS CURIOUSLY ARRANGED, AND THE WHOLE REMINDING US OF CERTAIN HOUSES STILL REMAINING IN THE NETHERLANDS.”—*Traditions of Edinburgh*. THE BUILDING DATES FROM THE YEAR 1623, AND WOULD SEEM TO BE THE RENDEZVOUS, IMMORTALISED IN “WAVERLEY,” OF PRINCE CHARLIE’S OFFICERS IN THE ’45.



XVIII.

A SOLID SUBSTANTIALLY BUILT CLOSE ENTERING
FROM ST GILES' STREET, LEITH, SIMILAR IN STYLE
OF ARCHITECTURE TO SEVERAL OF THE OLD EDIN-
BURGH CLOSES OF THE PERIOD.



• LAMB'S • CLOSE • •

NIX.

THE CUNZIE HOUSE, OR CUNVIE-NOOK AS IT WAS CALLED, WAS ONE OF THE SEVERAL EDINBURGH MINTS, AND WAS SITUATED AT THE FOOT OF CANDLE-MAKER ROW ON THE WEST SIDE. ALL KINDS OF ANCIENT SCOTTISH COIN WERE ISSUED FROM THIS BUILDING FROM THE LORDLY ANGEL-PIECE AND NOBLE TO THE HUMBLE PENNY AND RAWBEE. IT WAS IN ACTIVE OPERATION DURING THE REGENCY OF MARY OF GUISE.



XX.

THIS CLOSE IS CHIEFLY NOTABLE AS CONTAINING THE RESIDENCE OF THE BEAUTIFUL SUSANNAH, COUNTESS OF EGLINTON. SHE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "SOMEWHAT OF A BLUE-STOCKING, DEVOTED TO MUSIC AND THE MOST CONSPICUOUS PATRONESS OF THE SCOTTISH MUSES IN HER DAY." TO HER ALLAN RAMSAY DEDICATED "THE GENTLE SHEPHERD." ONE OF THE SIGHTS OF THE TIMES WAS THE PROCESSION IN SEDAN CHAIRS OF THE COUNTESS, WITH HER SEVEN BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS, FROM STAMP OFFICE CLOSE TO THE ASSEMBLY ROOMS.



STAMP · OFFICE · CLOSE ·

A NARROW DISMAL ALLEY LEADING FROM THE COWGATE TO THE BUILDINGS OF THE OLD COLLEGE OF EDINBURGH, AND IN EARLIER DAYS TO THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF "ST MARY, IN THE FIELDS" WHICH GAVE THE WYND ITS ORIGINAL NAME.

"THE ONE PECULIAR GLORY OF THIS HUMBLE PLACE IS THAT IT WAS THE BIRTHPLACE OF SIR WALTER SCOTT. IN THE THIRD FLOOR OF A HOUSE ON THE EAST SIDE, ACCESSIBLE BY AN ENTRY LEADING TO A COMMON STAIR BEHIND, DID THIS DISTINGUISHED PERSON SEE THE LIGHT ON 15TH AUGUST, 1771. TO THE UNHEALTHINESS OF THE SITUATION SIR WALTER HIMSELF USED TO ATTRIBUTE THE EARLY DEATHS OF SEVERAL BROTHERS AND SISTERS BEFORE HIM."

Traditions of Edinburgh.



XXII.

THE WEST PORT WAS THE MAIN THOROUGHFARE THROUGH THE SUBURB OF WESTER PORTSBURGH, LYING OUTSIDE THE CITY WALL AND ADJOINING THE GATEWAY OF THE WEST PORT. IT WAS IN TANNER'S CLOSE, A NARROW FILTHY ALLEY HARD BY, THAT THE ATROCIOUS BURKE AND HARE MURDERS TOOK PLACE IN 1827.



XXIII.

“THIS INARTIFICIAL EDIFICE, EXACTLY SUCH AS A CHILD WOULD BUILD WITH CARDS” IS THE ORIGINAL “DUMBIEDIKES” MANSION HOUSE, THE RESIDENCE OF THE UNSUCCESSFUL SUITOR OF JEANIE DEANS HEROINE OF “THE HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN.” IT IS SAID BY TRADITION TO BE CONNECTED BY AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE WITH CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE.



1894. 10. 11.

• • • PEPPER • MILL • HOUSE •

XXIV.

THE WEIGH HOUSE OR BUTTER TRON REBUILT IN 1660 TO REPLACE THE ORIGINAL WEIGH HOUSE DESTROYED BY CROMWELL, STOOD AT THE HEAD OF THE LAWNMARKET, WHERE IT WAS JOINED BY THE WEST BOW. STANDING IN THE MAIN ROAD UP TO THE CASTLE, IT WAS THE SCENE OF CIVIC DISPLAYS ON THE ENTRY OF QUEEN MARY INTO THE CITY, AND AGAIN CAME INTO CONSIDERABLE PROMINENCE DURING PRINCE CHARLIE'S BLOCKADE OF THE FORTRESS IN

1745.



THE WEIGHT HOUSE.

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